I am a concern citizen. My concern is about radio mediaconsolidation. In many cities across the country I notice radio stations
all playing the same recorded tracks. Local DJs and access to live local information, once provided by radio, are quickly being lost.

Local programming involves a live on-air or personality and a team of local writers and editors in the same localaity -- if not the same studio.
This type of local programming benefits the community by vocalizing their concerns through public outreach calendars, conversation about local issues and an opportunity for the community to have their concerns and joys spoken about and broadcast in their local community.

Public safety is another important aspect covered only with local programming. In the event of dangerous weather, car accidents or hazardous material spills, it is important for a local broadcaster and writing team to let the community know and warn them of dangers.

Local programming should be written and produced in the community where the content is broadcast.

This still allows for national network supervision of material and staffing, but it keeps the voice and content local.

Local programming includes all broadcast materials: news, debate & discussion, traffic, weather and entertainment. Local sports are an integral part of community in our country, as are other public events that offer culture to the town(s).

Locally based broadcasting offers several educational opportunities to our children & teens as well. Tours of radio & television stations introduce them to the physics of broadcasting over the airwaves, looking at the anteannas, sound booths and control rooms let the children see career opportunities. And the self esteem gained from an opportunity for a child or classroom of children to record a message about their local fundraiser and then listen to it in the car or at home is priceless.

Our country (and government tax system) is built upon an inherent goodwill of the people in their communities. Forced community service is the antithesis of alturism.

The wonderful thing is that companies benefit indirectly when they support community service projects. The community returns the favor and gives them more business.

Community service, however, is not local programming.

The economics of broadcasting must have ethics. Thankfully existing legislation is in place to prevent pay-for-play. Regretfully, record companies have poked holes in that.

The airwaves are public domain. Local artists should not have to pay to have their music aired. Whether a format for new local talent sets aside specific time or if a local record has a great song that fits the format and the DJ wants to play it on air--there should be an opportunity for 'free' airtime.

Theoretically, it's the advertising revenue that cover radio operatiing

costs. Local music certainly has an appeal to the listing consumer. Its a symbiotic relationship.

And also on that point, with advertisers paying the bills, DJs should ceratinly announce the artists name and song title every time it is played. This in another inherent right of the artist...the DJ is not announcing the record company label, s/he simply is giving due credit to the artist.

Voice-tracking is among the most demeaning tricks that broadcasting companies pull on listeners. Travelling across Texas, New England and California I've heard it first hand. It takes advantage of the listening consumer.

Unlike television news, where the consumer sees the broadcasters, radio voice tracks are not recognizable for what they are.

Voice tracks fail to meet the broadcaster's obligation to serve the local interest of the people.

National playlists bore me. I miss the days gone by where each region in America had it's own flavor. Texas rock and roll stations had good southern rock bands. New York City played great New York-themed Billy Joel songs. Los Angeles had fresh pop and punk sounds. (I also miss the local DJs who knew what the listeners loved to hear on the radio and who created local play lists.)

It seems to me national playlists only serve the record companies. National playlists essentially black-ball local performers from the airwaves. National playlists create a monopoly for the big recording labels.

Using national record sales and popularity lists to create a local play list is obvious. It is also obvious to take local listener requests into account when making a local playlist. This could be done from a central corporate office, but someone in NYC is not going down to the Texas music clubs and finding out what songs the people are really enjoying.

If 'low power FM' is letting people in the local community get on air and be heard I'm all for them. However, I would hold them to the same accountability as the high power broadcasting stations in regard to serving the local community with news, entertainment, community concerns and education.

Thank you for your continued efforts to work with our broadcasters to regulate fair use of our public airwaves.